



Milwaukee County

Supervisor Nikiya Q. Harris, 2nd District

For Immediate Release July 28, 2011
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COUNTY BOARD URGES STATE TO WAIVE BIRTH CERTIFICATE FEE

Birth certificate fee is an obstacle in new photo ID voting law

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Supervisor Nikiya Harris is thanking her colleagues on the County Board for overwhelmingly approving her resolution in favor of waiving the fee on birth certificates for individuals who require it to obtain a photo identification to vote.

“While it’s unfortunate that some individuals now have to jump through hurdles to exercise their constitutionally-guaranteed right to vote, there is an opportunity to somewhat streamline the process,” Supervisor Harris said.

In order to obtain a free identification card from the State Department of Transportation, the applicant must provide a copy of a vital record, such as a birth certificate from the County Register of Deeds Office.

“With this 18-1 vote on the County Board, we are urging the State Legislature and Governor to waive the \$20 birth certificate fee for one year,” Supervisor Harris added. “This can serve as a partnership between the State and Milwaukee County to provide a vital resource and limit disenfranchising voters at the polls.”

The Milwaukee County Register of Deeds office provided 29,130 certified first copy birth certificates in 2010.

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